

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of delivering purchase information comprising:
 2. storing purchase information for a purchase of a user in a set top box, wherein the set top box is configured to:
 4. receive broadcast signals through a tuner; and
 5. enable a presentation device connected to the set top box to display the broadcast signals;
 7. automatically obtaining a connection to the Internet using a communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the connection, wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
 10. establishing a secure electronic connection with a server through the connection to the Internet; and
 12. transmitting the purchase information from the set top box through the secure electronic connection to the server.
 1. 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information relates to a pay per view program.
 1. 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information relates to an electronic commerce transaction.
 1. 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the presentation device is a television.
 1. 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information is stored in a smart card.
 1. 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase information is stored in a renewable security module.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically obtaining a connection
2 comprises:

3 receiving a local phone number in the set top box;
4 automatically dialing the local phone number, without a user requesting a
5 connection, using the communication module, wherein the communication module is a
6 modem; and
7 establishing a connection to the Internet through a computer that answers the
8 dialed local phone number.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the local phone number is associated with
2 an Internet service provider.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically obtaining a connection
2 comprises:

3 determining if an Internet connection is currently established;
4 if an Internet connection is currently established, automatically obtaining a new
5 transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) connection through the
6 communication module using the established Internet connection.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the secure electronic connection utilizes a
2 secure socket layer (SSL) protocol.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the server is a broadcast satellite
2 operator's Internet server.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving additional
2 information in the set top box through the secure electronic connection.

1 13. A method of delivering purchase information comprising:
2 storing purchase information for a purchase of a user in a set top box, wherein the
3 set top box is configured to:
4 receive broadcast signals through a tuner; and
5 enable a presentation device connected to the set top box to display the
6 broadcast signals;
7 automatically obtaining a connection to a data paging network using a
8 communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the connection,
9 wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 establishing a secure electronic connection with a server through the connection to
11 the data paging network; and
12 transmitting the purchase information from the set top box through the secure
13 electronic connection to the server.

1 14. A system for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 purchase information for a purchase of a user;
3 a set top box configured to:
4 receive broadcast signals through a tuner;
5 enable a presentation device to display the broadcast signals;
6 store the purchase information;
7 automatically obtain a connection to the Internet using a communication
8 module of the set top box without the user requesting the connection, wherein the
9 communication module is different than the tuner;
10 establish a secure electronic connection with a server through the
11 connection to the Internet; and
12 transmit the purchase information from the set top box through the secure
13 electronic connection to the server.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information relates to a pay
2 per view program.

1 16. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information relates to an
2 electronic commerce transaction.

1 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the presentation device is a television.

1 18. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information is stored in a
2 smart card.

1 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase information is stored in a
2 renewable security module.

1 20. The system of claim 14, wherein the set top box is configured to
2 automatically obtain a connection by:

3 receiving a local phone number in the set top box;

4 automatically dialing the local phone number, without a user requesting a
5 connection, using the communication module, wherein the communication module is a
6 modem; and

7 establishing a connection to the Internet through a computer that answers the
8 dialed local phone number.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the local phone number is associated with
2 an Internet service provider.

1 22. The system of claim 14, wherein the set top box is configured to
2 automatically obtain a connection by:

3 determining if an Internet connection is currently established;

4 if the Internet connection is currently established, automatically obtaining a new
5 transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) connection through the
6 communication module using the established Internet connection.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the secure electronic connection utilizes a
2 secure socket layer (SSL) protocol.

1 24. The system of claim 14, wherein the server is a broadcast satellite
2 operator's Internet server.

1 25. The system of claim 14, wherein the set top box is further configured to
2 receive additional information through the secure electronic connection.

1 26. A system for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 purchase information for a purchase of a user;
3 a set top box configured to:
4 receive broadcast signals through a tuner;
5 enable a presentation device to display the broadcast signals;
6 store the purchase information;
7 automatically obtain a connection to a data paging network using a
8 communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the
9 connection, wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 establish a secure electronic connection with a server through the
11 connection to the data paging network; and
12 transmit the purchase information from the set top box through the secure
13 electronic connection to the server.

1 27. An article of manufacture for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 means for a set top box connectable to a presentation device to receive broadcast
3 signals through a tuner;
4 means for the set top box to enable the presentation device to display the
5 broadcast signals;
6 means for the set top box to store purchase information for a purchase of a user;
7 means for the set top box to automatically obtain a connection to the Internet
8 using a communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the
9 connection, wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 means for the set top box to establish a secure electronic connection with a server
11 through the connection to the Internet; and
12 means for the set top box to transmit the purchase information from the set top
13 box through the secure electronic connection to the server.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 relates to a pay per view program.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 relates to an electronic commerce transaction.

1 30. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the presentation device is
2 a television.

1 31. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 is stored in a smart card.

1 32. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the purchase information
2 is stored in a renewable security module.

1 33. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the means for
2 automatically obtaining a connection comprises:
3 means for the set top box to receive a local phone number in the set top box;
4 means for the set top box to automatically dial the local phone number, without a
5 user requesting a connection, using the communication module, wherein the
6 communication module is a modem; and
7 means for the set top box to establish a connection to the Internet through a
8 computer that answers the dialed local phone number.

1 34. The article of manufacture of claim 33, wherein the local phone number is
2 associated with an Internet service provider.

1 35. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the means for the set top
2 box to automatically obtain a connection comprises:
3 means for the set top box to determine if an Internet connection is currently
4 established;
5 means for the set top box to automatically obtain a new transmission control
6 protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) connection through the communication module using
7 the established Internet connection if an Internet connection is currently established.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the secure electronic
2 connection utilizes a secure socket layer (SSL) protocol.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the server is a broadcast
2 satellite operator's Internet server.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 27, further comprising means for
2 receiving additional information through the secure electronic connection.

1 39. An article of manufacture for delivering purchase information comprising:
2 means for a set top box connectable to a presentation device to receive broadcast
3 signals through a tuner;
4 means for the set top box to enable the presentation device to display the
5 broadcast signals;
6 means for the set top box to store purchase information for a purchase of a user;
7 means for the set top box to automatically obtain a connection to a data paging
8 network using a communication module of the set top box without the user requesting the
9 connection, wherein the communication module is different than the tuner;
10 means for the set top box to establish a secure electronic connection with a server
11 through the connection to the data paging network; and
12 means for the set top box to transmit the purchase information from the set top
13 box through the secure electronic connection to the server.